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INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL
MEDICINE

10, PARKS ROAD,
OXFORD

—
DENBIGHSHIRE EDUCATION AUTHORITY.
—

EDUCATION ACTS, 1902-7.

Medical Inspection of School Children

REPORT

of the

School Medical Officer

for the

Year ended 31st December, 1946

H. ARWEL THOMAS,
M.Sc., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

School Medical Officer.

rexham.

ugust, 1947.

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PREFACE.

To the Chairman and Members of the Denbighshire Education Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I take the pleasure of presenting for your consideration my Twelfth Annual Report on the work of the School Medical Service in the County for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

In its presentation, regard has been taken to the most important and salient matters relating to the work undertaken during the year. Its attenuated form is more or less dictated by the exigencies of the times and, of course, has no relation to the volume of the work performed during the year.

The area of the Wrexham Borough has now merged into the County area for administrative purposes, under Section 6 (1) of the Education Act, 1944. In the appendix to this Report will be found the Tables prepared by Dr. T. P. Edwards, showing the work done in the Wrexham Borough during the year.

All the staffs have remained unchanged during the year with the exception of the return of Mr. G. H. Craine, B.D.S., from the Royal Navy, and the appointment, to fill vacancies, of Miss M. E. Jones and Mrs. E. G. E. Rees on the Health Visiting Staff.

The School Medical Service maintains its popularity with the parents who are becoming more and more appreciative of the treatment offered, and which they increasingly regard as being for the ultimate good of their children.

I would like to express my thanks to the Director of Education and his staff for assistance rendered during the year. I would also like to express my great appreciation of the work done by the Head Teachers and their staffs who

give their assistance so unstintingly, notwithstanding their own and various other extraneous duties which they have to perform.

I am bound also to acknowledge the efficient manner in which the members of the County Health Staff have devoted themselves to their duties.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

H. ARWEL THOMAS,

School Medical Officer.

Number of Schools in the County.

The area of the Denbighshire Education Authority consists of 427,977 acres and includes 183 Modern and Primary Schools.

The number of Grammar Schools in the County is 10 and these are attended by a total number of 3,479 pupils.

Schedule of Medical Inspection.

The Schedule of the Ministry of Education has been followed with regard to medical inspection.

Staff.

There have been three resignations during the year among the School Nursing Staff. At the end of the year two of the vacancies had been filled.

Mr. G. H. Craine, B.D.S., School Dental Surgeon, also returned to duty from the Services.

Medical.

Dr. H. Arwel Thomas, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
County Medical Officer.

Dr. T. Kenrick Hughes, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
Deputy County Medical Officer.

Dr. W. McKendrick, M.D., D.P.H.,
Assistant County Medical Officer, also Medical Officer
of Health, Colwyn Bay.

Dr. M. Jones Roberts, M.B., Ch.B.,
Assistant County Medical Officer.

Dr. Sybil O. Edwards, M.B., Ch.B.,
Assistant County Medical Officer.

Tonsils and Adenoids Clinics—Mr. Courtenay Yorke,
F.R.C.S., Liverpool (Visiting Surgeon).

Orthopaedic Treatment at Clinics—Mr. D. L. Griffiths,
F.R.C.S. (Visiting Surgeon).

Child Guidance Clinic—Dr. R. S. Wilson, Denbigh Mental
Hospital (Visiting).

Dental.

Mr. H. E. Fussell, L.D.S.

Colwyn Bay, Llanrwst, Abergele, Denbigh, etc. districts.

Mr. G. H. Craine, B.D.S.,

Wrexham Rural (part); Ruthin Rural (part); Llangollen Urban.

Mr. R. A. Rider,

Wrexham Rural (part); Ceiriog Rural; Hiraethog Rural (2 schools).

Mr. J. G. Roberts, L.D.S.,

Half—School Medical Service (Higher Education).
Half—Maternity and Child Welfare.

School Nurses

(Apportionment of time—one half as School Nurse and one half as Health Visitor).

	Area.
Miss K. Jones	Rhos, Ponciau, Penycae, etc.
Mrs. M. R. D. Williams (resigned 9/8/46)	Cefn, Acrefair, Llangollen, etc.
Miss M. E. Jones (appointed 12/11/46)	Cefn, Acrefair, Llangollen, etc.
Miss C. J. Thomas	Brymbo, Broughton, etc.
Miss E. A. Bodsworth	Gresford, Rossett, Llay, etc.
Mrs. L. F. Pugh (resigned 30/9/46)	Coedpoeth, Bwlchgwyn, South-sea, etc.
Mrs. E. G. E. Rees (appointed 21/10/46)	Coedpoeth, Bwlchgwyn, South-sea, etc.
Miss Eirlys Jones	Ruabon, Rhostyllen, Eyton, Holt, Erbistock, etc.
Miss M. D. Evans	Llanrwst, Hiraethog, Glanconway, etc.
Miss B. Evans	Chirk, Vroncyssyllte, Ceiriog, etc.
Miss Eirlys Williams	Ruthin Borough and Rural, Cerrig, etc.
Mrs. M. Williams (resigned 30/9/46)	Denbigh, Abergele, Aled, etc.

Superintendent School Nurse.

Miss M. E. Thorpe.

School Clinic Nurse.

Miss M. Williams.

Dental Attendants.

Mrs. M. Jarvis.

Miss M. E. Foulkes.

Miss J. H. Sanderson.

Clerical.**Chief Clerk:**

Mr. J. T. Pritchard.

Assistant Clerks.

Mr. T. J. Davies.

Mr. Emlyn Evans.

Mr. Gwilym Davies.

Mr. W. K. Davies.

Miss Edna Hughes.

Miss D. Garner Jones.

Miss Kathleen Rooney.

Miss Hilda Jones.

Miss Joan Astbury.

Miss Margaret Whittaker.

Supply of Milk.

From a statement received from the Director of Education the following children received milk in school during 1946:—

Modern and Primary Schools (including the Schools in the Borough of Wrexham)	16092
Grammar Schools	2183

Provision of Meals.

The number of children receiving meals in school in December, 1946, was:—

	Free.	On payment.	Total
Modern and Primary Schools (including schools in the Borough of Wrexham)	3235	8077	11312
Grammar Schools	204	1825	2029

ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.

The following interesting table shows the number of children from 5-16 years of age, suffering from crippling conditions who have attended the Orthopædic Clinics in the County during the year.

Their treatment is undertaken by the specially qualified staff of the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopædic Hospital.

The table gives comparative figures for the past five years:—

Year	On books		Admitted during year		Total treated		Discharged		On Books				Attendances
									Active Treatment		Appliance Supervision		
1942 ...	460	...	280	...	740	...	186	..	551	...	3	...	1751
1943 ...	554	...	280	...	834	...	291	...	542	...	1	...	2184
1944 ...	543	...	309	...	852	...	175	...	676	...	1	...	1783
1945 ...	767	...	300	...	1067	...	247	...	820	...	—	...	1592
*1946 ...	820	...	281	...	1101	...	242	...	858	...	1	...	1608

*Figures include Wrexham Borough.

DENTAL SERVICE.

The following are brief reports by:—

Mr. H. E. Fussell, L.D.S.

“I beg to submit my Annual Report for 1946.

The main points in connection with the year's working are as follows:—

- (a) Of the 67 school departments in my area 60 received complete routine inspection and treatment, one was nearly completed when I had to give up, one inspected but not treated, whilst five could not be visited at all but one of these last being small schools.
- (b) The percentage of children inspected who were found to require treatment was 60.6, as compared with 58.03 the previous year.
- (c) The percentage of children whose parents accepted treatment on their behalf was 78.27, slightly lower than the year before, but the percentage actually treated was higher, being 75.3, as compared with 75.14 for the previous year. This is the highest percentage actually treated by me since I first commenced duties, and the unusually small difference between percentage of “consents” and percentage treated is largely due to the excellent co-operation of Head Teachers.
- (d) Four rural schools showed appreciation of the Dental Treatment offered to them by a 100 per cent. acceptance-rate, one of these for the second year in succession.”

Mr. G. H. Craine, B.D.S.

“I have pleasure in submitting my report for 1946.

I was demobilised from the Royal Navy during the year and resumed my work in the County at the end of June, after three years' absence.

The state of the children's teeth in the schools under my care is fairly good, although a lot of conservative work has accumulated in my absence, and this will take some time to put right. The percentage of consents for dental treatment remains very satisfactory.

I had a week's special course on School Dentistry in London at the Eastman Clinic shortly after my release from the Navy, which I found very helpful."

Mr. R. A. Rider.

"During 1946 I treated 2,918 children. Owing to the closing of schools in my area during the severe weather, I regret my figures for children treated are not as high as in 1945, although very pleased to say the consents for treatment remain at 80 per cent.

The attendance of a second Dental Officer to administer Nitrous Oxide at all gas sessions is a great improvement and appreciated service.

I would like to acknowledge the Head Teachers for their co-operation in making the service so successful."

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

The School Nurses continue to pay great attention to this service. They constantly visit parents and do their utmost to obtain as many consents as possible. It is not a pleasant duty to the School Nurses to have to visit those parents who appear to have made up their minds against immunisation, but these visits are made as cheerfully as possible and have resulted in the conversion of many otherwise obdurate parents.

The number of children immunised in the County during the year 1946 was as follows:—

Under 5 years of age	1954
Between 5—15 years	1035
Total	2989

Since 1937, the number of children immunised in the County is 46,121.*

The following table shows the percentage of children immunised in the several sanitary authorities in the County:—

	Children 1-5 years		Children 5-15 years
Urban Districts.			
Abergele	90.8	...	94.6
Colwyn Bay	96.4	...	93.2
Denbigh	92.1	...	97.0
Llangollen	96.0	...	98.5
Llanrwst	97.6	...	98.3
Ruthin	94.8	...	98.0
Wrexham	51.9	...	73.3

Rural Districts.

Aled	96.5	...	82.9
Ceiriog	87.1	...	95.4
Hiraethog	90.5	...	91.0
Ruthin	95.5	...	95.0
Wrexham	81.4	...	90.8

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

Mr. Courtenay Yorke, F.R.C.S., Throat Specialist, Liverpool, submits the following report on his work at the Tonsils and Adenoids Clinics in this County during the year:—

“During the year sessions were held at four centres in the County—Wrexham, Colwyn Bay, Llanrwst and Denbigh. It was the first occasion that the Clinic at Denbigh had been used for tonsil and adenoid operations. I was extremely pleased with the premises there, which were excellently adapted for the work, and all arrangements had been so carefully made that no difficulty of any kind occurred.

Once again it can be stated that no serious incident happened during the year and the results of the operations were generally very good.

No change in our methods was made. All the children were examined by me in the presence of parent or guardian before operation. Nitrous oxide gas was the anaesthetic used and great care was taken to check immediately any tendency to haemorrhage.

All the children were kept one night at the Clinic after operation.

Dr. Hughes and Sister Williams once again gave me most loyal and valuable help throughout the year.

COURTENAY YORKE.

The following are particulars of the clinics held during the year with the number of cases who attended for examination and operation:—

Clinic.	Dates held.	No. of children			
		Attended for examination.		Operated upon.	
Wrexham	17/1/46	...	22	...	12
Wrexham	31/1/46	...	12	...	9
Wrexham	14/2/46	...	20	...	12
Wrexham	28/2/46	...	16	...	11
Wrexham	14/3/46	...	17	...	10
Wrexham	28/3/46	...	19	...	12
Wrexham	11/4/46	...	25	...	12
Wrexham	9/5/46	...	23	...	12
Colwyn Bay	23/5/46	...	20	...	12
Colwyn Bay	20/6/46	...	18	...	9
Colwyn Bay	4/7/46	...	18	...	12
Denbigh	18/7/46	...	24	...	12
Denbigh	29/8/46	...	22	...	12
Denbigh	12/9/46	...	25	...	12
Denbigh	26/9/46	...	26	...	12
Llanrwst	10/10/46	...	18	...	12
Llanrwst	31/10/46	...	13	...	8
Wrexham	7/11/46	...	15	...	12
Wrexham	21/11/46	...	19	...	11
Wrexham	5/12/46	...	19	...	12
		—		—	
		391		...	226
		—		—	

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS.

(a) **Certificates of Closure.**

During the year 2 schools were closed on account of infectious diseases, viz.:—

No. of Schools.	Reason.
1	Measles.
1	Whooping Cough.

(b) **Certificates issued under Memorandum No. 51 (Board of Education).**

29 certificates were issued under Memorandum No. 51, viz.:—

No. of Schools.	Reason.
7	Coughs and Colds.
4	Measles.
3	Whooping Cough.
3	Chickenpox.
12	Influenza.

WREXHAM CHILD GUIDANCE CLINIC.

ANNUAL REPORT 1946.

The Clinic opened on 11/1/46. Psychiatrist, Dr. R. S. Wilson, D.Psych; Psychologist, Miss Marthe Vidor, Ph.D.; Psychiatric Social Worker, Miss D. M. Thomas. Weekly sessions have been held on alternate weeks at 16 Grosvenor Road, Wrexham,, and at the School Clinic, Gwersyllt, and there has been a weekly Play Group at the Gwersyllt Clinic, run by Dr. Vidor, with the very valuable help of Miss Evelyn Francis, who has voluntarily undertaken to assist with the work. Many of the cases presented emotional problems of the type which can be helped by attendance at the Clinic, but rather a high proportion of those referred for diagnosis proved to be mental defectives for whom institutional life would probably be the only effective form of treatment.

Analysis of referrals:—

No. of cases referred	43
Diagnostic only	9
For intensive treatment	19
Unsuitable for physical treatment	1
Seen at Rhyl C.G. Clinic	3
Seen at Denbigh M.H.	2
Visited and advised by P.S.W. unable to attend because of distance or domestic reasons	5
Awaiting appointment	4

It is, as yet, too early in the history of the Clinic to be able to estimate the results of treatment, but it can be said that the majority of the children attending showed marked improvement. The Clinic staff would like to record that a very happy relationship has already been established with the teachers of the schools which our patients attend, and there is also close co-operation with other agencies, such as the Probation Office and the Juvenile Employment Exchange.

Numerical Record:—

Number of sessions	47
Number of attendances—to see Dr. Wilson	81
Number of attendances to see Dr. Vidor	80
Social Worker's interviews in the Clinic	89
No. of home and school visits paid by P.S.W.	109
No. of Play Groups	27
Attendances at Play Groups	73

PHYSICAL EDUCATION.

Annual Report of Organiser of Physical Education for the year ended 31st December, 1946.

In spite of continued difficulty with regard to the supply of equipment and clothing in the schools, thorough work has been carried out and many teachers show great originality in the improvisation of apparatus for the daily playground lesson.

It has been a great pleasure to welcome back all the men teachers from the Forces. They have attended the 'Teachers' Classes in every centre and have been most enthusiastic in their effort to learn of the changes that have taken place and of the progress that has been made in the world of physical education during their absence.

The subject for training this year has been "Games and games practices"—classes were held weekly in the following centres:—

Cerrigydruidion	18 teachers attended
Abergele	23 teachers attended
Ruabon	48 teachers attended
Llanrwst	26 teachers attended
Denbigh	42 teachers attended
Wrexham	66 teachers attended
Colwyn Bay	56 teachers attended
Llanrhaiadr Y.M.	17 teachers attended
Rhosllanerchrugog ...	42 teachers attended
Ruthin	30 teachers attended

A course in Modern Dance was held in Wrexham and 20 teachers attended. Classes were visited by Miss Rogers, H.M.I., Mr. Russell Rees, H.M.I., and Mr. D. W. Pugh, H.M.I.

The games courses stimulated an interest in field games as well as in minor games for the playground, but there are still a number of schools which have no playing field at all, and a great number have only the use of a field in the summer months. It is hoped that every school will have its own playing field, with suitable upkeep, in the near future.

The remedial work has been continued this year and the Medical Officers of Health have shown great interest and have co-operated with the teachers of physical education in their routine medical examinations. This has proved of great value to the simple remedial work that is practised.

The schools in Wrexham and Colwyn Bay have the use of the town swimming baths, and although the weather was cold during most of the summer, the children were very enthusiastic and regular visits were made.

The Girls' Youth Camp was held at Old Colwyn Council Schools this year and was very much appreciated. 92 girls camped and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The camp was run as a holiday, but the girls looked after their rooms and helped with meals and washing up. Competitions were held during the week for tidiness, cleanliness and neatness of appearance.

The Organiser has taught during the year at a number of day courses and week-end courses arranged by the Girl Guides Association, the British Red Cross Society, the Women's Institute, the "Urdd," the Girls' Friendly Society and the Central Council of Physical Recreation. She has visited a number of clubs to run evening sessions in games, dancing and health education and has acted in an advisory capacity on many Youth Committees.

Selected children from the Junior Schools at Colwyn Bay danced the "Dawns Flodau" at the Gorsedd Ceremony of the National Eisteddfod in Eirias Park, and girls from Colwyn Bay Secondary, Grammar and Modern Schools are working at a ballet they hope to perform at the National Eisteddfod in 1947.

The Organiser attended the Conference of the National Association of Organisers held at Southampton in August and the Ling Conference held in London at Christmas. Lectures and demonstrations were given on all aspects of the work and proved very stimulating and interesting.

The Organiser would like to express her grateful thanks to Mr. Edward Rees for his interest and co-operation, to Dr. Arwel Thomas and the Medical Officers of Health for their help in Health Education and Remedial Work and to all the teachers for their enthusiasm and support.

MEDICAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT RETURNS.

Year ended 31st December, 1946.

TABLE I.

Medical Inspection of Pupils Attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.

A.—Routine Medical Inspections.

(Regulation 49 (2) of the Handicapped Pupils and School Health Service Regulations, 1945).

(1) No. of Inspections:

Entrants	2320
Second Age Group	1220
Third Age Group	3818

Total	7358
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(2) No. of other Routine Inspections	—
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Grand Total	7358
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B.—Other Inspections.

No. of Special Inspections and Re-Inspections 1847

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Pupils Inspected during the Year in the Routine Age Groups.

Number of Pupils Inspected	A		B		C		D	
	(Excellent)		(Normal)		(Slightly subnormal)		(Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
7358	799	10·86	6173	83·89	384	5·21	2	·03

TABLE III.**Group I.—Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanliness).**

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme 1707

Group II.—Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint.

	Under the Authority's Scheme
Errors of Refraction (including squint)	380
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	—
Total	<hr/> 380 <hr/>

No. of Pupils for whom spectacles were

(a) Prescribed	361
(b) Obtained	222

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

	Under the Authority's Scheme
Received Operative Treatment	226
Received other forms of Treatment	—
Total number treated	<hr/> 226 <hr/>

TABLE IV.**Dental Inspection and Treatment.**

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Dentist:—

(a) Routine age-groups	10065
(b) Specials	176
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)	<hr/> 10241 <hr/>

(2) Number found to require treatment	7028
(3) Number actually treated	6103
(4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment	7130

(5) Half-days devoted to:—

Inspection	92
Treatment	996
Total	<u>1088</u>

(6) Fillings:—

Permanent Teeth	3175
Temporary Teeth	123
Total	<u>3298</u>

(7) Extractions:—

Permanent Teeth	2490
Temporary Teeth	7642
Total	<u>10132</u>

(8) Administrations of general anaesthetics for extractions

3552

(9) Other Operations:—

Permanent Teeth	495
Temporary Teeth	176
Total	<u>671</u>

TABLE V.

Verminous Conditions.

(i) Total number of examinations of pupils in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons	16568
(ii) Number of individual pupils found unclean	266

TABLE VI.

School Medical and Dental Staff.

Names of Medical Officers.	Proportion of whole time (expressed as a percentage) devoted to	
	School Health Service.	Public Health.
S.M.O.:—		
Dr. H. Arwel Thomas	33½%	66¾%
A.S.M.O.s:—		
Dr. T. Kenrick Hughes	60%	40%
Dr. Sybil O. Edwards	60%	40%
Dr. M. Jones Roberts	50%	50%
Dr. W. McKendrick (also Medical Officer of Health, Colwyn Bay Borough)	30%	20%
Dental Officers:—		
Mr. G. H. Craine	Whole time	—
Mr. H. E. Fussell	Whole time	—
Mr. R. A. Rider	Whole time	—
Mr. J. G. Roberts (Higher Education)	50%	50%

SCHOOL NURSING STAFF

	Number of Officers.	Aggregate of time given to School Health Service work in terms of whole-time Officers.
School Nurses	11	10—half-time S.M.S.; and half M. & C.W. 1 whole- time School Nurse.
District Nurses	—	
Nursing Assistants ...	—	
Dental Attendants ..	3	2 whole-time S.M.S.; 1 half- time S.M.S. and half-time M. & C.W.

BOROUGH OF WREXHAM.

The following Tables have been prepared by the School Medical Officer for the Borough of Wrexham (Dr. T. P. Edwards) and are included in this report for the first time:—

TABLE I.

Medical Inspection of Pupils Attending Maintained Primary and Secondary Schools.

A.—Routine Medical Inspections.

(1) No. of Inspections:—

Entrants	425
Second Age Group	414
Third Age Group	201
Total	1040

(2) No. of other Routine Inspections	185
Grand Total	1225

B.—Other Inspections.

No. of special inspections and re-inspections 1104

TABLE II.

Classification of the Nutrition of Pupils Inspected during the year in the Routine Age Groups.

Number of Pupils Inspected.	A		B		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	(Excellent)		(Normal)					
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
1225	233	19·0	804	65·6	168	13·7	20	1·6

TABLE III.**Group I.—Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding uncleanliness.**

Total Number of Defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme 1307

Group II.—Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint.

	Under the Authority's Scheme
Errors of Refraction (including Squint)	87
Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I)	—
Total	87

No. of pupils for whom spectacles were

(a) Prescribed	85
(b) Obtained	85

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

	Under the Authority's Scheme
Received Operative Treatment	110
Received other forms of Treatment	116
	—
	226
	—

TABLE IV.**Dental Inspection and Treatment.**

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Dentists:—

(a) Routine Age Groups	2146
(b) Specials	122
(c) Total (Routine and Specials)	2268

(2) Number found to require treatment	1125
(3) Number actually treated	596
(4) Attendances made by children for treatment	928
(5) Half-days devoted to:—	
Inspection	12
Treatment	154
Total	<u>166</u>
(6) Fillings:—	
Permanent Teeth	839
Temporary Teeth	—
Total	<u>839</u>
(7) Extractions:—	
Permanent Teeth	184
Temporary Teeth	265
Total	<u>449</u>
(8) Administrations of General Anaesthetics for extractions	—
(9) Other Operations:—	
Permanent Teeth	—
Temporary Teeth	—

TABLE V.

Verminous Conditions.

(1) Average number of visits made during the year by the School Nurses	12.9
(2) Total number of examinations of pupils in the Schools by School Nurses or other authorised persons	20129
(3) Number of individual persons found unclean	359

